

In the Claims

Please substitute the following amended claims for those currently pending:

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1. (Currently amended) A chest compression apparatus comprising
    - a) a mechanism for applying a force to the thoracic region of a person, the mechanism comprising a bladder for receiving pressurized air, and
    - b) a mechanism comprising a ~~fan valve for~~ motor-driven rotating blade adapted to periodically interrupt the air stream supplying pressure pulses of pressurized air to the bladder, wherein the pulses having a substantially sinusoidal wave form.
  2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a mechanism for venting the pressurized air from the bladder.
  3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of components, including an air flow generator component, a pulse frequency control component, a pressure control component, and a patient vest, wherein the pulse frequency control and pressure control components can, independently, be used by the patient and/or can be preset and determined by the manufacturer or physician so as to deliver compression pulses having substantially sinusoidal wave forms.
  4. (Currently amended) A chest compression apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:
    - a) an air flow generator component adapted to provide a continuous stream of pressurized air,
    - b) a pulse frequency control component in flowable communication with the air flow generator and comprising a ~~fan valve~~ motor-driven rotating blade adapted to periodically

interrupt the air stream in order to provide pulses having a substantially sinusoidal wave form, and

c) a patient vest adapted to be worn by a user in order to receive the pulses in the form of corresponding force applied to the thoracic region.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising a pressure control component in flowable communication with the pulse frequency control component and adapted to permit a user to control the pressure of the pulses.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the apparatus is provided in the form of a plurality of portable modules having a combined weight of about 20 pounds or less.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the apparatus modules have a combined weight of 15 pounds or less.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus provides a maximum pressure of about 60 mm Hg or less.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the fan valve is used to establish and determine the rate and duration of air pulses entering the bladder.

10. (Currently amended) A chest compression apparatus comprising

a) a mechanism for applying a force to the thoracic region of a person, the mechanism comprising a bladder for receiving pressurized air, and

b) a mechanism comprising a ~~fan valve for~~ motor-driven rotating blade adapted to periodically interrupt the air stream supplying pressure pulses of pressurized air to the bladder, wherein the pulses having a substantially sinusoidal wave form,

c) and a mechanism for venting the pressurized air from the bladder,

wherein the apparatus is provided in the form of a plurality of portable modules having a combined weight of about 20 pounds or less and provides a maximum pressure of about 60 mm Hg or less.

11. (Original) A method of applying a force to the thoracic region of a person comprising the steps of providing and using an apparatus according to claim 1.

12. (Currently amended) A method of making a chest compression apparatus, comprising the steps of providing and/or combining:

a) a mechanism for applying a force to the thoracic region of a person, the mechanism comprising a bladder for receiving pressurized air, and

b) a mechanism comprising a ~~fan valve for~~ motor-driven rotating blade adapted to periodically interrupt the air stream supplying pressure pulses of pressurized air to the bladder, wherein the pulses having a substantially sinusoidal wave form,

c) and a mechanism for venting the pressurized air from the bladder.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a mechanism for venting the pressurized air from the bladder, wherein the apparatus comprises a plurality of components, including an air flow generator component, a pulse frequency control component, a pressure control component, and a patient vest, wherein the pulse frequency control and pressure control components can, independently, be used by the patient and/or can be preset and determined by the manufacturer or physician so as to deliver compression pulses having substantially sinusoidal wave forms.

14. (Currently amended) A chest compression apparatus according to claim 13, comprising:

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a) an air flow generator component adapted to provide a continuous stream of pressurized air,

b) a pulse frequency control component in flowable communication with the air flow generator and comprising a ~~fan valve~~ motor-driven rotating blade adapted to periodically interrupt the air stream in order to provide pulses having a substantially sinusoidal wave form, and

c) a patient vest adapted to be worn by a user in order to receive the pulses in the form of corresponding force applied to the thoracic region.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 further comprising a pressure control component in flowable communication with the pulse frequency control component and adapted to permit a user to control the pressure of the pulses.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the apparatus modules have a combined weight of 15 pounds or less and the apparatus provides a maximum pressure of about 60 mm Hg or less.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the ~~fan~~ valve is used to establish and determine the rate and duration of air pulses entering the bladder.

18. (Original) A method of applying a force to the thoracic region of a person comprising the steps of providing and using an apparatus according to claim 13.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18 wherein the apparatus modules have a combined weight of 15 pounds or less and the apparatus provides a maximum pressure of about 60 mm Hg or less.

20. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 19 wherein the [fan] valve is used to establish and determine the rate and duration of air pulses entering the bladder.